



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!™**

Lake Archer Association

Preventing the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species

As most are aware aquatic invasive weeds have been introduced within Lake Archer over the years and are beginning to spread. Though the lake remains a beautiful location to enjoy, if not managed the continued spread of these invasive weeds will no doubt impact the future enjoyment of the lake as well as the investment we have all made in lakefront property. A lake association has been established to begin management of this important issue impacting all Lake Archer abutters. Information regarding the Lake Archer Association and details regarding the lake can be found online at Lakearcher.org.



Though there are multiple issues resulting in the continued spread of these invasive weeds, two of the most easily managed are those caused by;

- ◆ **Boats, kayaks, canoes and PWCs**
- ◆ **Aquarium discharge**

The following information sheet details what we can do as homeowners on the lake to help reduce the spread of these invasive weeds caused by the above issues.

Additional educational information will be distributed in the future to inform homeowners regarding additional issues impacting the lake such as the impacts of lawn fertilizers, storm runoff and others.

Please take the time to review this important information

1) Boating and PWC Impacts:

Boats, canoes, kayaks, PWCs, trailers, waders and other fishing and boating equipment can spread aquatic invasive species from waterbody to waterbody unless properly cleaned, dried or disinfected after use. Although some invasive species such as water milfoil are readily visible, many others are too small to be readily noticed. To avoid spreading invasive species please follow the guidelines in the following steps:



- ◆ Check
- ◆ Clean
- ◆ Drain
- ◆ Dry
- ◆ Disinfect



Investigators checking a boat for invasive plants

CHECK

Check your boating and fishing equipment for invasive species.



Don't forget to also inspect all gear used during your fishing or boating trip



Be sure to carefully examine these common invasive species attachment points.



If your boat has been used in a water containing zebra mussels, run your hand along the hull. If it feels like sandpaper, it likely has mussels attached.

CLEAN

Clean any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.



Remove all invasive species from your boat and equipment.



Don't forget equipment such as anchors and other gear

Discard items in an upland area or in one of the invasive species

DRAIN

Drain all water holding compartments including live wells, bait wells and bilge areas.



Drain your boat before you leave the access site!



Be sure to drain boat ballast tanks if your waterski or wakeboard has them.



Drain your livewell if you have one.

DRY

Dry boats, canoes, kayaks, trailers and all equipment before use in another waterbody.

Drying your boat takes at least 5-7 days in dry, warm weather.



The most effective method to ensure that no invasive species are transported to the lake is to completely dry your boating and fishing equipment. The key is to make certain that equipment is **COMPLETELY** dry before launching your boat back into the lake. Drying times vary significantly depending upon the type of equipment, air temperature and relative humidity. While the outside of a boat will dry relatively rapidly, bilge, live wells and other areas of a boat not reached by the sun or lacking good air circulation will take additional time to dry completely. A minimum of 5-7 days drying time in dry, warm conditions is recommended.

DISINFECT

Disinfect anything that came into contact with water, if it cannot be dried before reuse.

In Summary:

If you are a boat or watercraft owner, please be sure to thoroughly clean your boat, trailer, fishing gear and any other items that travel from other bodies of water prior to launching or using in Lake Archer. Dispose of all invasive plant species properly – in a dry area, away from the lake and in an appropriate receptacle such as a compost bin.

Aquarium Impacts:

It also needs to be noted - If you have an aquarium, never dump its contents into the lake or surrounding area. Some exotic aquarium plants are invasive species. It is believed this is the cause of some of the weeds we are experiencing in Lake Archer today. Dispose of all plant species and aquarium contents properly.

Please Remember:

Many people use the lake for different reasons. Everyone's actions make a difference for protecting water quality and a healthy lake environment.

